

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A communications method, comprising:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the sender;

providing the video instant message to the instant messaging host from the transparent location; and

providing, to the instant messaging host, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

38. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising generating, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message to the recipient on behalf of the sender and providing, to the instant messaging host, the text instant message to the recipient.

39. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

41. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

42. (New): The method of claim 39 further comprising displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

43. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

44. (New): The method of claim 36 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel to the recipient.

45. (New): The method of claim 44 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

46. (New): The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

47. (New): The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

48. (New) A communications method, comprising:  
    establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

storing the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the recipient;

accessing the video instant message from the transparent location; and

presenting the video instant message to the recipient.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

50. (New) The method of claim 48 further comprising receiving, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the sender and presenting the text instant message to the recipient.

51. (New) The method of claim 48 further comprising providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

52. (New): The method of claim 48 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel to the sender.

53. (New): The method of claim 52 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

54. (New): The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

55. (New): The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

56. (New) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the sender;

providing the video instant message to the instant messaging host from the transparent location; and

providing, to the instant messaging host, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

57. (New) The computer program of claim 56 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

58. (New) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for generating, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message to the recipient on behalf of the sender and providing, to the instant messaging host, the text instant message to the recipient.

59. (New) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

60. (New) The computer program of claim 59 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

61. (New) The computer program of claim 59 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

62. (New): The computer program of claim 59 further comprising instructions for displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

63. (New) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

64. (New) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

storing the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the recipient;

accessing the video instant message from the transparent location; and

presenting the video instant message to the recipient.

65. (New) The computer program of claim 64 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

66. (New) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text

instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the sender and presenting the text instant message to the recipient.

67. (New) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

68. (New) A system comprising:

means for establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

means for generating, during the instant messaging communications session, a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for storing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the sender;

means for providing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message to the instant messaging host from the transparent location; and

means for providing, to the instant messaging host during the instant messaging communications session, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

69. (New) A system comprising:

means for establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

means for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session, a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

means for storing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message in a location that is transparent to the recipient;

means for accessing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message from the transparent location; and

means for presenting, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message to the recipient.